

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.0 pm

Via ZOOM Virtual Meeting

SIGNED

Present Cllr Luke Henley (Chairman) Susan Robson, John Beckitt, Elizabeth Inall, Kate Sinclair, Graham Ranger, Peter Tonge, Damian Murphy, Janet Brown & Lauren Buckley

In Attendance: Sue Thwaite (Clerk)

Apologies: CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker – prior meeting

To Elect Chairman & Vice Chairman

1. Nominations for the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were called for: -
Cllr Inall proposed Cllr Luke Henley for the position of Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Kate Sinclair. Cllr Susan Robson proposed Cllr John Beckitt for the position of Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Graham Ranger. Both nominations were approved unanimously.
2. Cllr Henley signed his acceptance of nomination virtually and the meeting began.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

Reports

To received Chairman's Annual Report

3. **Introduction:** - Due to the pandemic there was no Annual Meeting in 2020 so this report covers a two-year period.
4. **Membership:** - In 2019 there was an election for the first time in many years; there were more candidates than seats so a contested election was held. A full 10 Councillors were elected in May 2019, with three current members not being re-elected. Over the following period three other councillors stood down for various reasons and three new Councillors were co-opted.
5. In early 2020 the Clerk tendered her resignation from the Council, but due to the pandemic interviews for the position were put on hold and the Clerk agreed to continue in the role.
6. The other change due to the pandemic was for face-to-face meetings being forbidden and all meeting have been conducted virtually on ZOOM to which members of the public and Ward Councillor Stuart Parker able to attend virtually.
7. **Achievements:** - The report went to highlight work on improving the traffic situation in the village – Cllr John Beckitt taking the leading role, the Planit consultancy was commissioned to develop a scheme for discouraging cut-through traffic and changing traffic priorities away from vehicles towards cycling and walkers. These plans have recently been put out to consultation with the public and the Parish Council will be looking at taking them forward.
8. A new Park & Stride initiative has been revived and extended for High School students. Discussion with the Bridge Club to seek ways to manage the impact of their traffic upon the village generally.
9. Air Quality monitoring has highlighted pollution levels in certain places in the village are unacceptably high; the Parish Council is seeking to address this with CWAC Highways.
10. The A41 traffic continues to be of concern with heavy lorry through traffic still remaining on the A41.

11. Planning application for Beechmoor Nurseries site has received permission for a Care Home and Retirement Bungalows has been approved. The proposed development of the University of Law was delayed due to the pandemic, a Parish Council Working Party and knowledgeable parishioner has met with the developer on a number of occasions and made suggestions on improvements to the scheme, it seem likely that an application for planning permission will be made in the near future, at which point the Parish Council will formally decide on whether it wishes to support the application.
12. The Parish Council will be going back to face-to-face meetings from 7th May 2021
13. Malcolm Pratt had been kind enough to continue maintaining the Parish Council's website.
14. The Pit Group have worked valiantly on maintaining this very valuable feature and resource, despite the worst the pandemic could muster.
15. Thanks were expressed to all Councillors past and present for their dedication, hard work and willingness to carry on in the teeth of the storm
16. Thanks went to Cllr Stuart Parker for opening doors and generous grants from his Member's Budget and to the Parish Clerk who held everything together.
17. The report was circulated to all members and was accepted unanimously. The full report can be viewed on the [Parish Council's](#) website.

To receive the Annual Financial Repot

18. The Report contained up-to-date bank balances and information on income received and expenditure for the financial year 2020-2021.
19. Income included the Precept, grants from Ward Councillors members budget, VAT refunds, rent income from Boughton Heath Allotment Colony.
20. Expenditure included the Village Design Project, upkeep of lands that the Parish Council are responsible for, Boughton Heath Allotment Colony (all expenditure for the allotments was met from their rents). Support for King George's Fields, salaries, Insurance premiums, PAYE, annual subscriptions to various bodies, auditing, accounting and training.

Coming Year

21. To look at various capital projects being considered, support for KGF Trust, Village Design Project, Tree safety work on land that the Parish Council are responsible for and general core expenditure.

KING GEORGE'S FIELDS

INCOME:

22. Income derived from rent from Christleton Sport Club, with a grant to offset the first quarter's rent at the start of the pandemic. Grant towards new gate at Little Heath Play Area and support from the Parish Council.

EXPENDITURE

23. The main expenditure was for groundworks at LHPA, Little Heath Common and the bike track and general maintenance and insurance premium.

GOING FORWARD

24. LHPA Working Group are looking at updating the surface material at the Play area and possible updating of some of the equipment.
25. The report was circulated to all members and accepted unanimously. The full report can be views on the [Parish Council's](#) website.

Reports from Representatives

To receive report from Christleton Primary School Governor

27. The School has been completely dominated by COVID 19 with various number of children being in school depending on the Lockdown status. There are currently 210 children at the school. Through the very challenging times the staff, children and parent community have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Costs for the school have increased due to cleaning materials/processes, cover staff and organising, the site etc. which the school has been unable to recover. During lockdown the school provided emergency provision for around 35% of the children, invested time and resources in its remote learning provision, where children do not have access to a device the school provided one. Parents and visitors have not been allowed into the school building and a one-way system is in place for parents to drop off and collect their children.
28. The children returned fully to school in March positively and happy and settled back into school.
29. The Head expressed his thanks to the wider school community (parents) who have been fantastic throughout. Governor's meeting has been held on line.
30. Last Autumn there were several incidents of vandalism in the Forest School area. Large fires were lit, canisters exploded and several items (including safety equipment) were burnt or destroyed and some items could no longer be used. A great deal of time and cost was incurred to repair the Forest School. A great deal of support from parents and the wider community was gratefully received.
31. There have been a few instances of positive Covid tests with staff and pupils having to isolate, but thankfully no serious illness reported. The full report can be views on the [Parish Council's](#) website.

John Sellers Trust Annual Report

32. During the last year the Trustees have not been able to meet but have carried out their work via email. They are hoping to meet again in the Autumn this year. The full report can be views on the [Parish Council's](#) website

Report from Village Assistant

33. With schools, clubs and businesses at a standstill for many months the usual daily visitors took a dramatic reduction. However, many new ones included it on their daily exercise and feel these people would be impressed with the surroundings.
34. The litter on roads and streets was reduced and many did their bit to help with that. We still have the weekly problem caused by Friday 'Caddy collections' and a new one with the discarding of face masks.
35. For a few months the play area and surrounds were declared 'out of bounds' but people took little notice. Fast food deliveries were taking place and occasional children's birthday parties. Streetcare were not emptying litter bins but thanks to Sue obtaining strong bags I was able to clear this myself.
36. Graffiti on 3 canal bridges needs action. Not a welcoming sight for tow path walkers 121 Quarry Bridge, 122 Trooper Bridge and 122a A55 flyover bridge (worst one)

Report from Bank Warden

37. The Bank Wardens report was circulated to all members and included that 6 fishing licences had been issued to under 16's in the last year who fished regularly during the season when Covid regulations permitted.
38. There were issues with adult Anglers from outside the Village ranging from 20 to 40 years old who were Carp Anglers and due to furlough and many commercial fisheries being closed sort other venues to fish. In the main they left when approached and informed they were not permitted to fish. On several occasions the Bank Warden and other member of the Pit Group were challenged and told, often in challenging or threatening ways, they would not stop fishing,

there were problems with BBQ's being set up causing damage, with the PCSO being informed to report the incident.

39. Ways to prevent fishing were implemented on occasions to stop fishing in unauthorised locations only to find the material to prevent fishing was removed.
40. Fish stock is predominately Carp which range in size from 10-23lbs. The Pit lacks small fish, which would encourage beginners and parents from the Village who would like to fish with their young children and teach them how to fish with the float.
41. A request to the council to consider making funds available to buy and stock a variety of silver fish in the closed season January to March 2022, which would improve the diversity of fish in the Pit.
42. This request was approved and the Bank Warden will be requested to contact the Council nearer the time for funding.
43. The report was circulated to all members and accepted unanimously – the full report can be views on the [Parish Council's](#) website.

The meeting closes at 7:15pm.